

University of British Columbia

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Honours Program



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ENGLISH HONOURS AT UBC

HISTORY OF ENGLISH HONOURS



Inaugurated in 1920 by Professor G.G. Sedgewick, English Honours at UBC is one of the oldest surviving Honours programs in Canada--at a time when such programs are becoming an endangered species. Lamenting the abolition of English Honours at Toronto, the distinguished critic Northrop Frye called UBC's program "the best in Canada." In a large Department of English (with over 600 Majors students), Honours provides a comparatively intimate program for about 110 students--roughly 35 in each year.

English Honours has been revised many times since 1920 in order to accommodate new literatures and new developments in the discipline of literary studies. Through all such revisions, we retain our commitment to historical depth, ensuring that our students are familiar with the centuries-old traditions of literature in English. We also work to develop critical and analytic skills, theoretical sophistication, and creativity. The structure of the program makes possible a variety of methods of studying and teaching, from regular classes to seminars to one-on-one tutorials. It is, therefore, possible for the individual student to develop particular areas of talent and interest while meeting general requirements. English Honours prepares students very well for higher-level work in every branch of the arts, law, journalism, librarianship, and education.

ENGLISH HONOURS GRADUATES



English Honours students have been very successful both in the academy and beyond. Many win scholarships during their undergraduate careers and rank in the top group for Arts graduates in any given year. Many receive major scholarships for higher education at some of the most prestigious universities around the world, and some have pursued distinguished university careers. English Honours alumni have also become eminent in quite varied careers--in the arts as poets, playwrights, and writers of fiction and as professionals in libraries, publishing, media, the Civil Service, law, social work, business, and education at every level. The English Department is extremely proud of the record of its graduates and remains committed to assisting the launching of their careers in any way it can.



COMBINING PROGRAMS

Many students choose to combine English Honours with Honours in another discipline in the Faculty of Arts or with a Major or a Minor. Typically, such

combined programs involve accommodation between programs. Students should therefore arrange such combinations only after they have received careful advising. Combining English Honours with Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing involves all the senior requirements in both programs for what is, in effect, a double degree.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM




120 total credits are required. At least 48 credits must be taken in English courses numbered 304 and above. Students contemplating an Honours program are strongly advised to complete Faculty requirements in science and language before entering the program.

In order to ensure historical depth and theoretical sophistication in their study of literature, English Honours students are also required to take courses in the following areas:

- A. At least one course from each of the following areas (minimum 9 credits):
 - 1. Old and Middle English Studies
 - 2. Sixteenth-Century Studies
 - 3. Seventeenth-Century Studies.
- B. At least one course from two of the following areas (minimum 6 credits), one of which must be in Canadian Literature unless that requirement has already been met in second year:
 - 1. Eighteenth-Century Studies
 - 2. Nineteenth-Century Studies
 - 3. Twentieth-Century Studies.
- C. At least 3 credits of language or rhetoric. In addition, students are required to take four sections of senior seminars (491 and 492) for a total of 12 credits. These may be taken at any time and in any order, but must include three credits of 491 (focusing on theory). The graduating essay, 499, for 3 or 6 credits, is best written in the student's final year.



APPLICATION TO ENGLISH HONOURS

 The English Honours Program accepts applications for second year (English 210 and 211) and for third year. All applicants should submit the following: an application form (which can be obtained from the English Honours Desk, 822-9817); a writing sample from a literature course; a letter of reference; and a short letter explaining their choice of this Program and their expectations from it. Applicants registering at UBC for the first time should also provide a transcript of their university or college work to date.

The Honours Committee will allocate spaces to new applicants in early May. We have room for some latecomers but recommend that applications be received in the English Department no later than **April 30**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

See English Honours under www.english.ubc.ca. You can also contact the English Undergraduate Program Assistant: Buchanan Tower, Rm. 397; Tel: 822-9817; english.undergraduate@ubc.ca.

Dr. Miranda Burgess, Chair, English Honours Program, can be reached at 822-5549 or by email at: mirandab@interchange.ubc.ca.



PHOTOS: G.G. SEDGEWICK (ARCHIVES), FORMER UBC PRESIDENT MARTHA PIPER GREETING HONOURS STUDENTS, ENGLISH 211 AND 492